



L.A.: ANGER erupts in its streets

News / 4&5

Last day to drop
with "W"
Friday, May 8

Go to the head
of the class:
Dean's list List / 6

VALLEY STAR

Los Angeles Valley College

Vol. 44 No. 25

Thursday, May 7, 1992

Van Nuys, California

L.A. lashes out at King verdict

□ Valley student relates the terror of driving through a city under siege

By KEVIN BOLT
Associate Sports Editor

"The police just had no control." Those were the first thoughts that entered the mind of Gladys Harris as she drove past a burning Kinney's and Foot Locker shoe store on Rosecrans just west of Central in her home city of Compton.

Driving home from LAVC, Harris, a community and student services assistant couldn't believe what she was seeing last Wednesday in the wake of the Rodney King verdict.

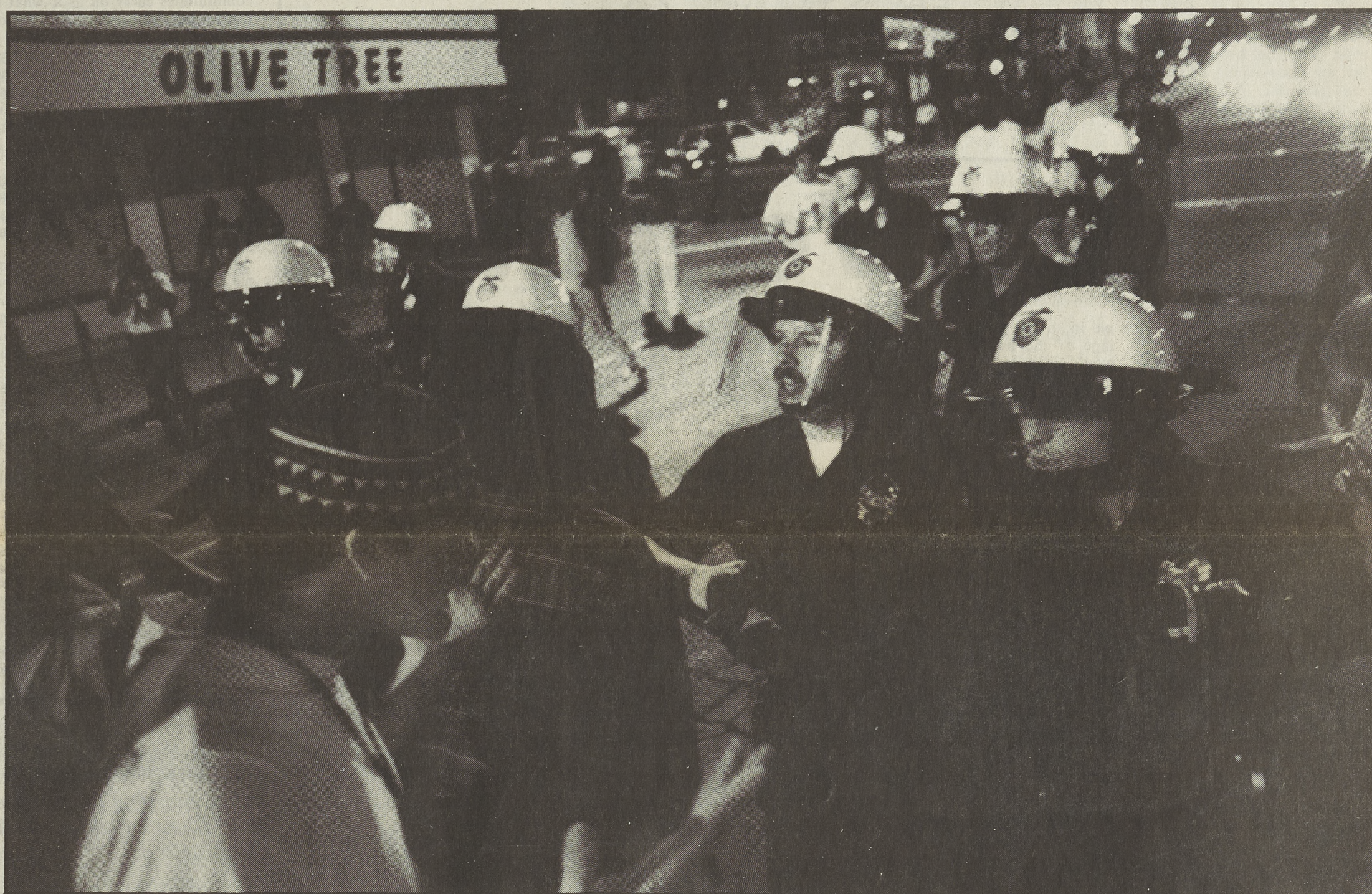
"Not Guilty." Never before have two words set off the violence that this city and cities across the nation would encounter.

"It was scary," she said. "I needed to get home to my ill mother and I was just hoping I would get home without being involved in any gunplay. People were looting and there were fires; all I could see was a lot of smoke."

"On 54th and Normandie a little neighborhood market was on fire, and on Vermont and Vernon a pawnshop was being looted. People had propped open the bars and were carrying out big items. It was a really scary feeling. On Hoover and Vernon I observed police cars and officers just standing there conversing while all this was going on."

"I was having heart palpitations watching these fires right in front of me. I was having thoughts of not making it home. At the same time I was concerned about my friends and relatives who live in South Central Los Angeles. I am a property owner in Compton and South Central and I am extremely worried."

"When I saw the stores burned down I realized that these store owners are devastated financially. The people who work there are out of a job, and the way the economy is now, well, you are looking now at families that are devastated."



PETER MAXWELL / Valley Star

Confrontation — Tension filled the air at 1st and Main in downtown Los Angeles when riots broke out last

Wednesday. The LAPD formed scrimmage lines and began to force protestors away from Parker Center and

City Hall. The police were successful in finally getting them out of the area.

"Our justice system is a heck of a long way from being perfect. I think it's a crying shame and it stinks that those officers got off. Seeing all the

destruction made me think that this is not just confined to South Central L.A. This is a greater L.A. and even California and national problem,"

she said.

"I don't justify or feel the looting and violence is the answer, especially innocent people getting hurt, but

the frustration in this area; people are just lashing out at everything in their own way. You hope things like this will never happen in your com-

munity, but there just seems to be no safe places to live anymore."

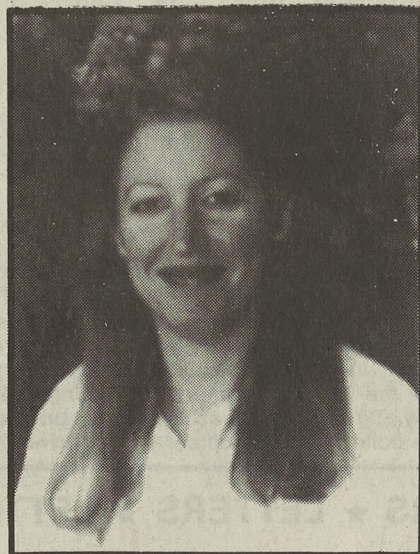
Vigran new EIC for Valley Star

By ROBERT FINKEL
News Editor

At the conclusion of a journalism department conference, consisting of students and faculty, last week Valley Star Editor-in-Chief, Chris Mayda, was suspended from her position for 30 days. Star Photo Editor, Nancy Vigran, accepted the position of acting Editor-in-Chief.

Mayda, who had been chosen to head the Star staff in January, took the post amid controversy from the very start due to the acrimonious departure of the previous staff. Her innovations — typesetting the paper on desktop publishing equipment located in her home, a "box" style flag, and increased use of infographics — were not successful enough to sustain her amid student complaints that too much of the production was taking place off campus and therefore inaccessible to them.

Vigran, 37, has a liberal arts A.A. degree, a strong background in Photojournalism and will be graduating in June. She



NANCY VIGRAN

REINHOLDER / "My first concern is to support the education process," Vigran said. She will be the acting EIC for the Star's last three issues.

acknowledges that correcting a fractious situation among the Star staff is important during her short tenure. "I hope the journalism department can once again work cohesively so that journalism students can receive their proper education," she said.

Roger Graham, Journalism department chairman, said he would like to get back to putting out a first-rate paper. "The important thing is to maintain the highest ideals of college journalism," he said. "The Valley Star is a learning-lab newspaper, and it must involve all our students to the maximum extent possible."

"Nancy Vigran is well qualified. I'm looking forward to her leadership developing an excellent publication," Graham said.

Journalism instructor and faculty adviser to the newspaper, Tony Cifarelli, who strongly supported Mayda's policies said, "It wasn't fair to vote her out. I was surprised that there even was a vote. Her suspension is a shame."

Mayda is still part of the staff but would not comment on her suspension as Editor-in-Chief.

Riot Tolls

Los Angeles Valley College was closed Thursday night and all day Friday due to emergency conditions in relation to the violent riots that broke throughout L.A. County last week.

Although there were no damages to the campus, Mary Ann Breckell, acting president of Valley, complied with Mayor Tom Bradley's curfew order until it was lifted Sunday.

Valley police did not report any incidents on campus.

The rioters protesting the outcome in the Rodney King trial, caused numerous damages throughout L.A. County:

□ **Deaths:** 58
□ **Injuries:** 2,383;
227 in critical condition
□ **Fires:** 5,383
□ **Arrests:** 13,756,
including 2,628 felonies
□ **Damage estimate:**
\$785 million

Source: Los Angeles Times

EVENT CALENDAR

Today, May 7

11 a.m. — Campus concert series, Music Recital Hall.

Friday, May 8

Last day to drop classes with a "W." Cinco de Mayo festival.

Saturday, May 9

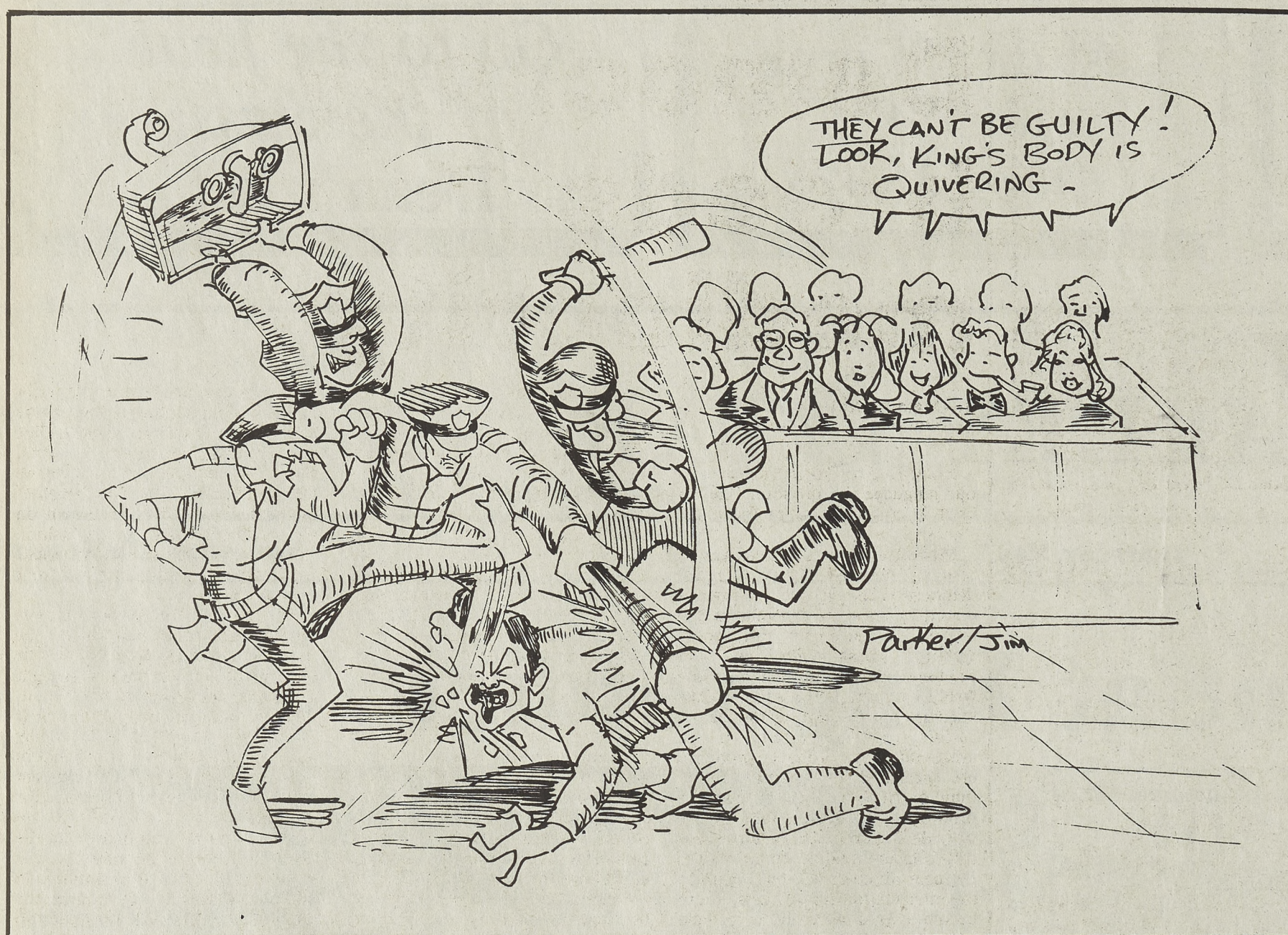
TBA — Valley College track meet, So. Cal finals, Santa Barbara.

Sunday, May 10

7:30 p.m. — LAVC guitar ensemble, Music Recital Hall.

Wednesday, May 13

1:30 p.m. — IMS Filmex, BSc 101.



King Verdict

Con: King beaten unfairly, twice

By JORDAN MOORE
Staff Writer

Anyone with a rational mind (who's not a racist) was disgusted with last week's verdict exonerating the police officers who attacked Rodney King. It represents a slap in the face, not only to the African-American community, but to the underclass as a whole.

Many people, more than one might think, endure tremendous poverty in places like South-Central Los Angeles; their lives are a continual series of injustices. To watch those four thugs with badges walk away as free men is the ultimate injustice.

Considering the condition of Black America, taking into account such frightening figures as the infant mortality rate (it's akin to that of a third world nation), unemployment rate and percentage of males between the ages of 18 and 25 who are in prison, the riots and the looting that ensued are to be expected.

These are people denied the dignity (and material wealth) they have been deluded into thinking was their right. The verdict was intolerable and served as the shove over the edge.

The justice system is designed to perpetuate the continued prosperity of the upper class, which comprises a fraction of our population. The interests of the minority are protected against the will of the majority; the police are the tool to protect those interests.

Assaulting men like King is routine procedure to instill terror in the population, to literally beat the peo-

ple in to the ground. If no video tape of the beating existed, King would likely be in prison for assault of a police officer.

When one recalls who we have tolerated as Chief of police of this city for years, the verdict comes as no surprise. Racism and hatred have always been a characteristic of this country; the video simply took the fact into everyone's living room.

Hopefully, King will be vindicated in a higher court, but it makes little difference. In a system that choose more prisons and more police over education, equally, social justice, child care and universal health care (the list goes on and on), people, mostly minorities, will always be brutalized by the authorities.

What is needed is a drastic change in priorities, and that involves a drastic change in the entire system.

"What we saw was a crime," said Mayor Tom Bradley. "The men who beat Rodney King do not deserve to wear the uniform of the LAPD." Mayor Bradley has a gift for understatement. Those four men should be in prison.

Pro: Venue change causes 'Seamy' verdict

By ANDY FISHMAN
Opinion Editor

On March 4, 1991 the most highly publicized video tape in history was viewed for the first, of what would turn out to be countless times.

After thirteen months, one trial, and with the video tapes contents examined thoroughly, on April 29, 1992, the 12 member jury of the defendants peers returned from a

week of deliberation with a verdict of not guilty on 11 of the 12 counts.

That one count is now pending a second trial based on the mistrial, if the prosecution decides to proceed, and also based on the judge's approval.

What this video tape showed was the apparent unnecessary and brutal beating of Rodney King, a young black male, by four L.A.P.D. officers.

King was observed by two CHP officers driving extraordinarily fast. When he failed to pull over at their request, a high speed chase ensued, resulting in Kings subsequent beating and arrest.

A lot of people have claimed that racial overtones played a major factor in the beating, that the only reason that King was beaten was because he is black. If these allegations are true then why were the other passengers in King's vehicle (both black) spared of all violence?

Could it have been because they were smart enough to know to listen to the police and did what they were told to do, and not resist and put up a struggle?

It has also been said that use of violence of any kind was deplorable, and that the officers should have been able to restrain King without harming him.

But at the time King was totally oblivious to all that was going on, and had a total lack of respect for the police and the authority that they represent.

It was obvious that King was not sober, but what drugs he had taken was in question. PCP was suspected, and when on PCP a user gains a sense of super human strength and have been known to break handcuffs. So extreme caution had to be used.

Although no traces of PCP were found, when tested for drugs at the police station (some five hours later) traces of marijuana and alcohol were found to be present.

It was also unknown as to whether or not King was armed, and as he refused to give up, and kept reaching toward his belt, the police had no other choice than to suspect that he was armed.

Every time that King was forced

to the ground, as the police would try to cuff him, he would struggle to get up. Which would in turn cause the police to force him back down again. This vicious cycle could have easily been avoided had King not resisted to begin with.

Other complaints have focused on the fact that the jury may have been biased, because there were no blacks and only two other minorities, a Hispanic and a Filipino female.

This argument cannot be justified, because in the U.S. court system the jury is selected by both the defense and the prosecuting attorneys. If there was any possible bias shown by one of the perspective jurors, that juror would be excused from further duty and another would be selected instead.

If there was any bias on the jury at all, it was not because of a failure in the system, but rather due to incompetency on the part of D.A.'s office. The prosecuting attorneys should have spotted any bias perspective jury member during that weeding out period.

In this case, as in all cases, it is the job of the prosecution to put all doubts aside as to the intentions of the defendants. Meanwhile, it is the job of the four defense counselors to be able to put a reasonable doubt into the minds of the jurors.

In this instance it is the defense that did their job better. They were able to bring up a reasonable doubt in the minds of the jury as to whether or not the force used was justified.

To the casual observer it was an open-and-shut case, especially after having that video tape drilled into their heads by the media. These four policemen were tried, convicted, and sentenced before they ever stepped foot into a courtroom.

These jurors however did not have the luxury of sitting at home and watching the video tape on t.v. They had to listen to both sides equally and make a fair decision based on all the facts, and not just the obvious ones.

They took this task to heart and came up with what they felt as the only possible solution to this problem. For that neither they nor the court system can be blamed.

City sleeps while L.A. burns

By CHRISTOPHER D. SHARPE
View Editor

And they say, given the opportunity, people will come around and show their true side, their humane side.

Well, the people have come around, but humanity is far from the objective with which they appear to be transfixed.

While American citizens in Los Angeles destroy one another, destroy themselves, the remainder of the Angelinos and surrounding communities carry on as if what is transpiring is of no concern of theirs.

History is being written. History! Yet what is the average person who is not in the midst of the war zone doing as a reaction? Going to the store, renting a video, and relaxing at home until this annoyance is over.

We're at war in this God-forsaken land, and people are content to watch "real-life" adventures, courtesy of the Hollywood film industry.

God pray for us all. When a people divide as we have divided, when a people fight for survival only to be rebuffed and ignored, when an entire race of people are in a position to be destroyed without so much as a whimper from the rest of society, I can do nothing but stare in disbelief and tremble for my life and the lives of others. My life! At this point, I wonder if it's even worth living in a world bent on self-destruction.

You know, I went down to South Central the night the riots erupted, and I saw the results of justice, American style. City blocks burning to the ground, burned out cars and cars still engulfed in flames littering the streets, people breaking into stores carrying away everything they could bear. No, these were not the poor and the oppressed only. There were people of all hues and colors, in all makes and models of cars.

As Han talked, a middle aged white man walked by brandishing an ax, apparently ready for action. "I really hate the fact that the Rodney King incident was basically just an excuse," continued Han. "The looters are opportunistic. To see these people looting like that, they're scavengers. That's the first thing that comes to mind. They're only killing themselves. After this, they're going to try to find jobs down there, and whom are they going to go to? What jobs? If they thought the situation was pretty bad before, there's no comparison now."

Han believes the animosity amongst the races is definitely going to escalate. "People, with their

Koreans who had congregated at a Korean mini-mall in Van Nuys to protect the stores from vandals. Han was selected as an interpreter and liaison between the group and anyone who approached them, be it police, firemen, or myself. Lucky for me Han was there and had recognized me as a Valley student. As I approached the group, in order to take a picture, the individuals approached me, armed with bats and clubs. Without Han's intervention I doubt I would be here today living and breathing. "I have something vested here," said Han, whose father owns a barber shop in the mall, "so I have to be here. But a lot of these people have nothing to gain by showing up," he continued, "because they're just customers, not shop owners themselves."

Han then went on to relate how a couple of his friends buddies were shot. "After they were done helping out some of the shopping malls, they got in their car and headed back home. They noticed a few hispanics trying to break into a gun-shop," he said. "Before they could do anything, a hispanic turned around with an uzi and sprayed the car. One guy got it in the head, and the other in the back."

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People would drive by, see the looting taking place, make a u-turn and join the fun. The police? While I was watching, they would drive by, glance over, and continue on their merry way.

What is wrong with this society, a society that values property over human life. People armed with rifles and uzis, guarding their property, not caring if another person dies in their erotically stimulating quest for destruction.

Mark Han, an honor student and business major at Valley College, agrees. "When I saw those poor people being dragged out of their cars and pulverized, I just felt my adrenaline flow," he said. "I couldn't believe one human being was doing that to another. I couldn't believe it. People coming along, kicking him while he was unconscious. I just couldn't see myself doing that. I value human life way too much."

Han was with a group of 50 or so

mind set, will just make it worse," he said. "Racial tension will be there all the time now. We need better leaders. It always comes down to that. If you can't control your own people, then what good are you?"

"You've got these Korean guys sitting on top of buildings to protect their property," continued Han. "They try to protect their property and they actually take the life of their own. Last night, a Korean needed help, so he went into where those guys had the uzis. They blew him away. They shot first and asked questions later. I know they feel pretty stupid and feel remorse, but that's total loss of control. If you can't control your people then that's when you get into a lot of problems."

Part One of Two

Continued Next Week

Valley Star

Published each Thursday throughout the school year by students in the advanced writing, editing, photography and typesetting classes of the journalism department.

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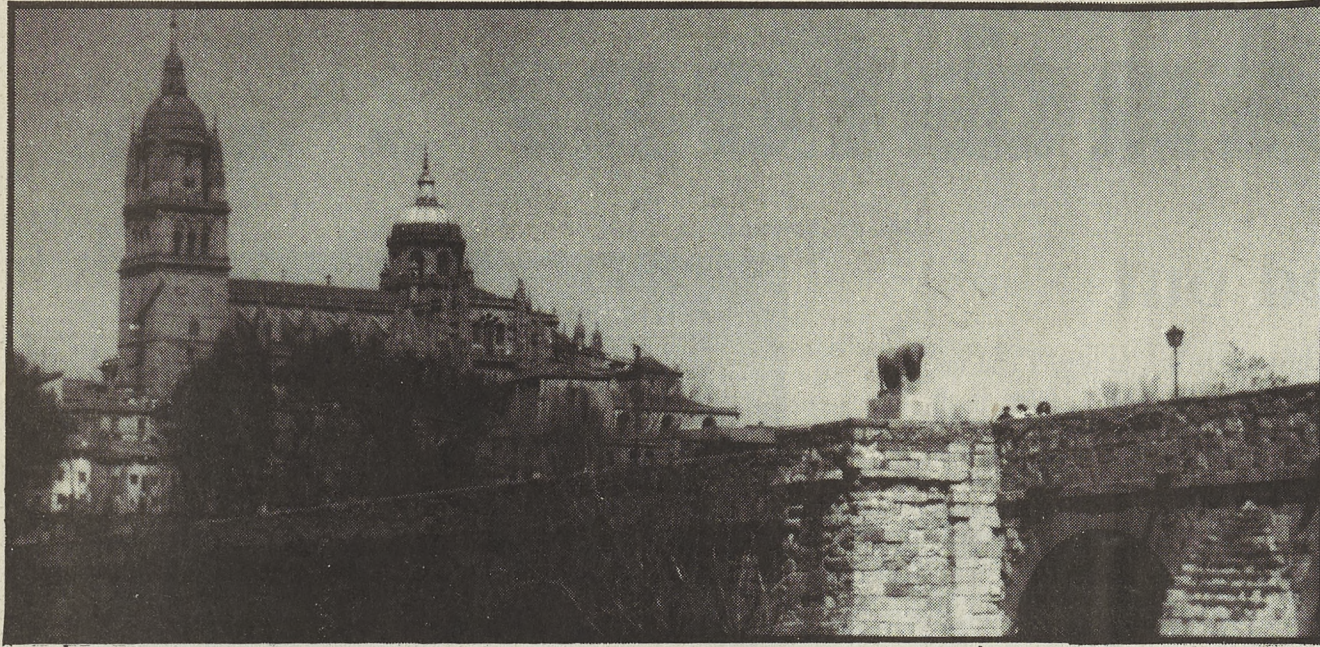
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The Star reserves the right to condense all letters for space considerations. Submitted letters should be limited to 350 words. Letters are subject to editing if



they are obscene, libelous, or make racial, ethnic or religious denigrations.

Letters should be signed and, if applicable, include student's major and ID number. Letters may be presented to the Valley Star office, Bungalow 25, by Monday for the following Thursday.



MILES GRANDFIELD / Valley Star

No one waits for the 'Big One' in Spain

By MILES GRANDFIELD
Special to the Star

Travelling to a place like Spain has taught me things about myself that I never knew before. As a Californian I found out that I have a subliminal alarm system that goes off in earthquake danger zones.

I define an EDZ as any place I wouldn't want to be during a particularly large quake. Old brick buildings, freeway underpasses, elevators, and the 39th floor qualify as EDZ's.

We grow up subconsciously waiting for the Big One. We aren't allowed to forget it completely because there are periodic reminders in the form of moderate shakers that can cure a person's irregularity in seconds.

But just because we know it is coming doesn't mean we're going to go around wearing Depend undergarments all the time. We suppress our immediate fears and take our chances. Otherwise, instead of millions of us risking our lives in a daily bet against nature, the coastal fault lines would still be inhabited by grannies shooting rabbits off the back porch.

When a student from LAVC takes a seat in a classroom at Colegio Miguel de Unamuno to begin a semester of study in Salamanca, an uneasy feeling can begin to well up

as you realize that the walls are nothing but a bunch of large blocks of stone stacked up with nothing holding them together but their own weight. Forget about checking the exits. A measly 5.5 would bring the whole thing down before you could say "Ay caramba."

The Salmantinos don't seem to be worried in the least, however. They just point to the Roman Bridge to demonstrate the seismic stability of Spain. The bridge is another arrangement of stone blocks that has been standing unshaken since the first century before Christ.

Salamanca, a university town about 135 miles northwest of Madrid, was one of the major cities along the Ruta de la Plata, the ancient road used by the Romans to carry silver from mines in the north, to the sea ports on the southern coast of Spain.

The bridge was built over the River Tormes to accommodate the heavy wagons on their journey to Andalusia. It's beautiful arches are still so solid that whenever very heavy equipment must be moved into the city, they use the Roman Bridge because it can bear more weight than the two modern steel bridges standing nearby.

The bridge is the oldest structure in town, but there are plenty of other buildings that testify to the fact that the ground doesn't move in Spain. The four story house where

students from LAVC attend classes in Salamanca is one of the oldest buildings in the city. Rebuilt in 1879 to replace the massive wooden beams that support the roofs and floors, it rests just inside the original entrance to the city on the Rua Antigua.

The fortified stone wall and the Puerto del Sol have disappeared. Little by little the stone was used to construct houses and churches during the late Middle Ages and Renaissance.

Today, the city's boundaries extend beyond the Colegio, and as you continue down the cobblestone Rua toward the University of Salamanca, the magnificent cathedral, and finally, the last surviving neighborhood of dilapidated but picturesque stone structures where gypsies have lived for centuries.

The town fathers consider these barrios an eyesore and have demolished them as fast as the legal process will allow. People are the perceived threat to buildings in Spain, not earthquakes. You must remember that when you sign up for a semester in Salamanca, leave your hard hat at home. EDZ's don't exist over here.

Grandfield is an LAVC journalism major in the district of foreign studies program in Salamanca, Spain.

Democracy breeds mediocrity

By CHRIS MAYDA
Staff Writer

Note: Due to the inefficiencies of our language the pronoun "he" is used in a generic sense meaning "he/she".

Men of quality must give way to men of quantity. In a capitalist democracy, the worker, the man of quantity, has some control over the owner, but the owner, the man of quality, possess political and economic power through his close watch over the bottom line. When business is providing for the masses rather than the few of an aristocracy, the products produced are measured by quantity rather than quality. As men of quantity proliferate, as quality falls by the wayside due to educated birth control to insure quality, quantity rules by sheer numbers without regard to the interrelationship of facts. Truth becomes not a factor in the formula but conformity to the majority opinion is the comfort of the many. Change is unsure, unsteady and therefore not encouraged by the unsure and individually unsteady masses who need their numbers to assure their rights.

When the profit motive is the sole determination of progress, the arts, literature and entertainment suffer as does craftsmanship. Art is a mass-produced poster, literature is the New York Times' best sellers, and entertainment is Hard Copy or Arnold S as the Terminator. But more than anything, the individual man suffers the most. He who is alone in the security of his voice becomes isolated from the mass mentality of democracy. Original

thought is singular and not mass produced and therefore unpopular and threatening.

Mass education does not produce men of quality. The individual is stifled and rejected. The people are "educated" to run microwaves, VCR's and cellular phones. Any remaining individuality in the automaton individual of the mediocre masses is shown through his sensitivity to his color, national origin or religion...to his absolute inability to find humor in its beliefs. That person is White, Black, Chinese, or Islamic at all costs and without the ability to separate his "individuality" from his loss of ego at being one of the many. He needs a reason to give meaning to his life.

Freedom becomes a narrow stranglehold of hope to a man clothed in K-Mart fashion when he believes his freedom makes him king along with the other 200 million.

Democracy, where everyman can be king, the majority rules and the majority is constant and unemotional about its decision. It is ground in, flat and balanced whereas the individual who expresses true emotion coming from the quick is unbalanced, creative, an artist and a pariah to the masses. That the individual might possess true beauty of thought goes ignored in a world that has no time for quality. The cheap sensationalism of emotion takes the place of true emotion for the majority, seen through the media in sentimental offerings. Movies are commercial vehicles for profit, not for reflection. There is no profit in ideas.

Education becomes a Jeopardy game of facts versus the ability to place these facts with thought to

found an original idea in the brain of any individual. Empty facts alone are no sign of intelligence but a idiot savant ability to mimic, so often shown in multiple choice and true and false tests. One fact becomes the same as the next as shown on CNN, the riot next to the fashion show next to the weather. All equally displayed but disconnected from one another.

But having to educate masses economically does not allow for thought or ideas sketched in the margins of the scantron. It is right or wrong and the grey area of individual thought, of questioning is not allowed. A variety of facts may inspire a thought that is original in the thinkers mind, but current education will not allow room for interrelation of facts. The facts are said to lie when read in any but the acceptable way. The way the majority are taught: rote, unthinking and unchallenged. They are separate and inviolate. But creative minds do not see facts alone. They see relationships amongst the facts and question with the innocence of a child. The same child who is taught the first fact and told the first answer in flat unfeeling tones of equality.

So as Nietzsche and De Tocqueville point out, democracy worships the mediocrity of the masses. Conformity to a given ideal that is encouraged by its simplicity rather than its complex truthfulness is the call of the day. The dissenting voice is drowned in a cesspool of factual equality. The opinion of the majority in a democracy stands alone, afraid to think, and warm in its coocon of conformity and righteousness.



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All Applications must be received by Tom Yacovone, Chair, Sociology Dept. by 4:30pm, Monday, May 18.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTING CANDIDATES: Student must be a Sociology Major. Student has completed, or is completing six or more units in Sociology. Student should have a minimum GPA of 3.0 or better.

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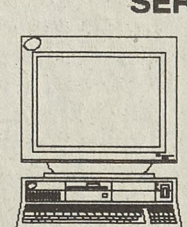
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Night of rage and fear . . .

Tough night for the media

By MICHAEL OEHLER
Staff Writer

"Give me your camera, mother-fucker," were the words I heard a man scream at me from inside a car that had just pulled up beside me. Somehow I didn't feel he was open for negotiation.

"No, I'm sorry," I barely managed to say, shaking my head and backing away, "I can't do that."

"You want to get smoked?" he asked (this did not really sound like a question). There I stood, without moving. I could not run as I knew the car would catch up with me.

"Maybe," I thought, "if I didn't do or say anything they would just leave." Naivete? Perhaps, but I had never been in a situation quite like this before.

I didn't move until the car doors opened and two guys stepped out. The man who had screamed at me was reaching for a gun. I didn't know if he was bluffing nor did I care to gamble my life on it.

I stood in the middle of the street, watching the guys who had taken my camera away. I have never felt so alone in my life. It was at that moment I found out how alone I really was. As I looked around, I realized that there were no police, news crews or photographers to be found. I represented the total media world at that particular point in time and place. I probably should have felt proud and distinguished. The only feelings I had were of anger and embarrassment, which gave way to paranoia and fear. Am I crazy? What am I doing here?

Here was downtown L.A. on Broadway. It was the night of the acquittal of the four officers accused of beating Rodney King. Earlier that night I had been asked by another student, a photographer, if I wanted to go down to Parker Center to take pictures. Being a photography student myself, I went without thinking twice. Maybe I should have.

At first the demonstration appeared to be peaceful. People were yelling at the police, and people were crying, but there was no violence that I saw or heard.

One thing was for sure: the police were going to be on their best behavior. I saw dozens of people milling around with video camcorders and there seemed to be as many photographers as there were demonstrators.

The violence started when the police moved the people back. They were trying to create a perimeter that would allow them to control the crowd. It was when the police started pushing the people that the fires were lit and rocks were flung from assailants in the rear.

On the corner of Los Angeles and 2nd Street the police stopped pushing the people back. I took the opportunity to reload my camera in a parking lot a short distance away. When I returned, I found to my surprise that the street was almost empty.

After wandering around, I finally found a group of people. They were two blocks ahead of me. There were people running everywhere doing what they pleased; everything from demonstrating in the street in anger over the King verdict, to breaking into stores, looting and burning them down.

I saw one man walking down the street yelling and carrying a mock police baton. He had attached a handle to a steel pipe approximately three feet long.

He directed his shouts toward me. The noise he was making drew the interest of a few rioters in the area.

The next thing I knew they had backed me into a wall and were demanding my camera. I showed them my press credentials and promised the man who was shouting at me that I wouldn't print his picture, and I wasn't lying. This didn't seem to satisfy him.

Maybe it was God talking to me, I don't know, but I decided to give them the film. Not one to haggle over details, I ripped the film out of the camera as quickly as I ever have and handed it over to them. They turned away and I left with my camera as quickly and quietly as I could.

Thinking the worst was over, I reloaded my camera and continued to take pictures.

Every person there was a possible assailant. If somebody decided they didn't like me, they could have killed me and no one would have

cared, let alone try to intervene. If nothing else, passersby would have been more likely to help my attacker than help me.

I don't know if this is an accurate or responsible statement, and I certainly don't want to insult anybody who has lived in and under white persecution by saying the following:

I am not privy to the black experience in America. I don't feel any person should have to go through what the blacks as a race in America have gone through. Before that night, I thought it was possible to understand and that I did understand from a black's perspective what America was to them. I was wrong, like so many people who profess to "know" the black experience who just happened to be white. If this is what blacks have to go through on a daily basis, then this riot should be a wake-up call for the government.

What I went through that night was as close to blatant racism as I wish to get. It was racial and not a political backlash.

And that is the precise message that, by their "not guilty" verdict, the jury sent to the black community.

First person report

Tenants burned out

By NANCY VIGORAN
Acting Editor in Chief

Amidst the smoke and the rubble lie hundreds, thousands of seedling stories to be told. In the apparent aftermath of street warfare, rioting and fire bombing following the "not guilty" verdicts of four LAPD officers in the beating of Rodney King, people want to have their say, tell their story and are eagerly awaiting press attention.

Such was the case of the tenants of a partially gutted apartment building on New Hampshire near Vermont and 3rd. On Thursday, April 30 at approximately 10:30 a.m. the building was set ablaze along with an adjacent construction site. Although no tenants of the building sustained physical injuries due to the fire, many were left without any personal belongings and some were left emotionally victimized.

Those left without a home, sought comfort with friends and neighbors. Tenants alleged that their manager "left the building unattended" that evening and being unable to obtain any form of security, those staying in their smoke and water damaged apartments, lay awake evening listening to attempted break-ins at their doors.

Manager Beatrice Codon, a 76-year-old army veteran, said "We're not ma-

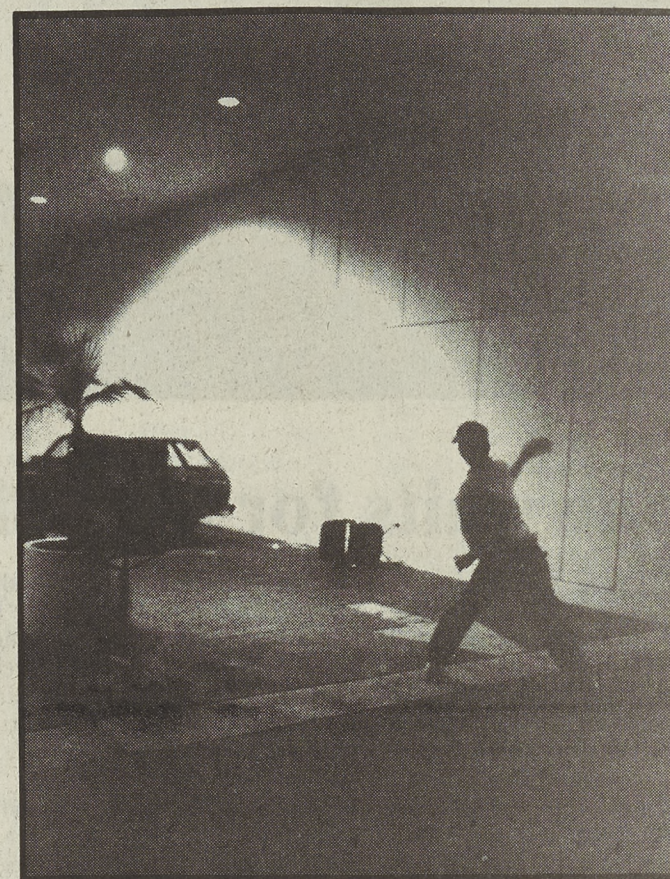
gicians!," referring to herself and the building owner. "The boss is a wonderful guy; he's trying to do everything for these people," she said. She explained that he was offering tenants apartment space in other buildings, which he owns, at the same rental rate, even though regular rates may differ.

Tenants, however, claim that "the owner is demanding rent now," while they have no where to turn.

The American Red Cross, in efforts to aid victims throughout damaged areas of L.A., sent volunteers to this apartment complex, along with RTD buses for transportation to a neighboring shelter at Belmont High School. Tenants said they were afraid to leave, to lose whatever they might have left.

George Sanders, 20, who moved to Los Angeles five months ago, said he did so "to stay out of trouble back home." Back home is Chicago and when asked where he was going now, he said "Back home."

Tenants spoke of a woman badly beaten during an attempted rape. The alleged victim, they said, was not a tenant of the building but rather a daughter coming to assist her mother. Her mother's apartment had suffered water and smoke damage and a missing front door reportedly removed by fire fighters. All crimes and injustices were not smothered by the dousing of the fire.



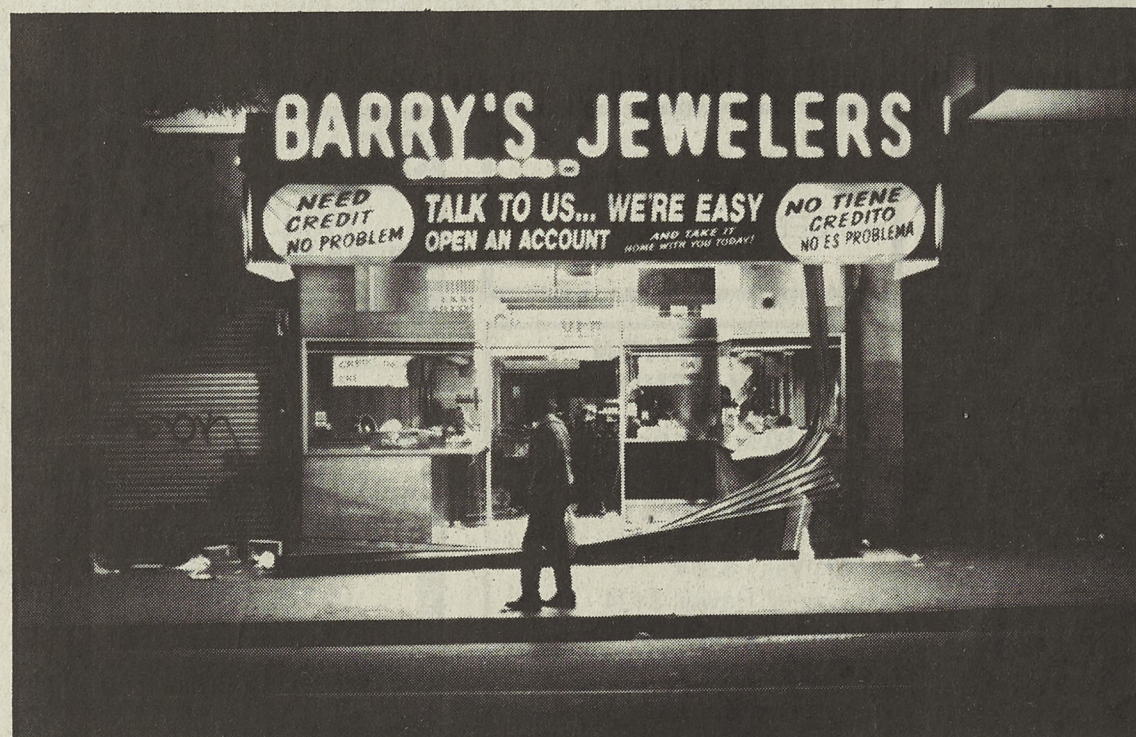
PETER MAXWELL / Valley Star

Anger — After being driven away from Parker Center by the LAPD, the protestors began throwing chunks of concrete at cars and through windows of the new Otani Hotel in Little Tokyo.



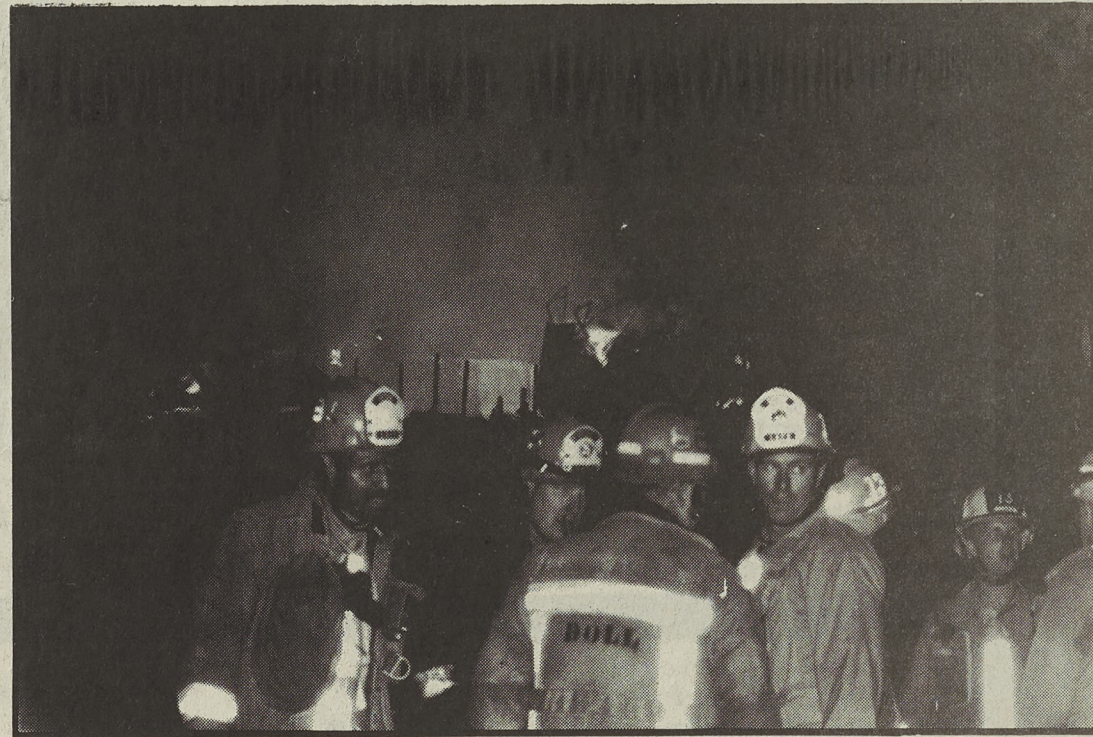
MICHAEL OEHLER / Valley Star

The turmoil began — Police charged the protestors at Parker Center last Wednesday in an effort to disperse them.



MICHAEL OEHLER / valley Star

Failed security — Most stores with roll-down security doors were not touched, because their contents were not visible, except for businesses like this jewelry store.



STEVE DUNLAP / Valley Star

Talking tactics — Firefighters discuss their next fire they need to bring under control. This fire at 36th and Vermont burned itself out.

... the aftermath

OPINION

By JUDITH WAXMAN
Staff Writer

Where there's smoke, there's fire

With the not guilty verdict in the Rodney King beating case, rage and resentment, which soon turned into rioting, descended on Los Angeles, including Hollywood, a land of illusion and where I live.

But the acrid smell of smoke, the black, billowing

clouds covering the sky and the fiery flames coming from the red brick, two-story burning building on the corner of Western Avenue and Santa Monica Boulevard in Hollywood wasn't an illusion.

Horried, I watched firemen battle the blaze, wondering if my apartment across the street was safe, seeing looters running, brazenly carrying clothing, shoes and small appliances, VCRs and air conditioners, past the posted policemen rerouting traffic.

Suddenly, something else was on fire: a store on Santa Monica Boulevard located directly behind my apartment! Panicky, with the horror of it's happening to me giving way to the reality of losing all I owned, I dashed into my apartment, darting through the rooms, overwhelmed by the imminent disaster.

Haphazardly, I grabbed some clothes, important papers, photos and my dog, Samantha, stashed everything in my car, then drove, in internal and external chaos, four blocks away and parked, leaving my dog in the car.

Amid wailing sirens, ringing alarms and running people, I walked back to my apartment, seeing the huge flames, smelling the smoke, rapidly gathering more possessions, seeing my neighbors fleeing, hearing the firemen say, "Get out!" the blaze now boldly illuminating and consuming the gathering dusk, with only an alley and a cement carport between the inferno and my apartment!

With shelter and safety needs in jeopardy, I stood on the street with my neighbors. When the choking smoke forced us, across the street, I stressfully watched the relentless flames reach higher and closer, and I pray to God: "Please spare my apartment building." I felt frightened and helpless, my sense of sanctuary shattered and, by extension, my world.

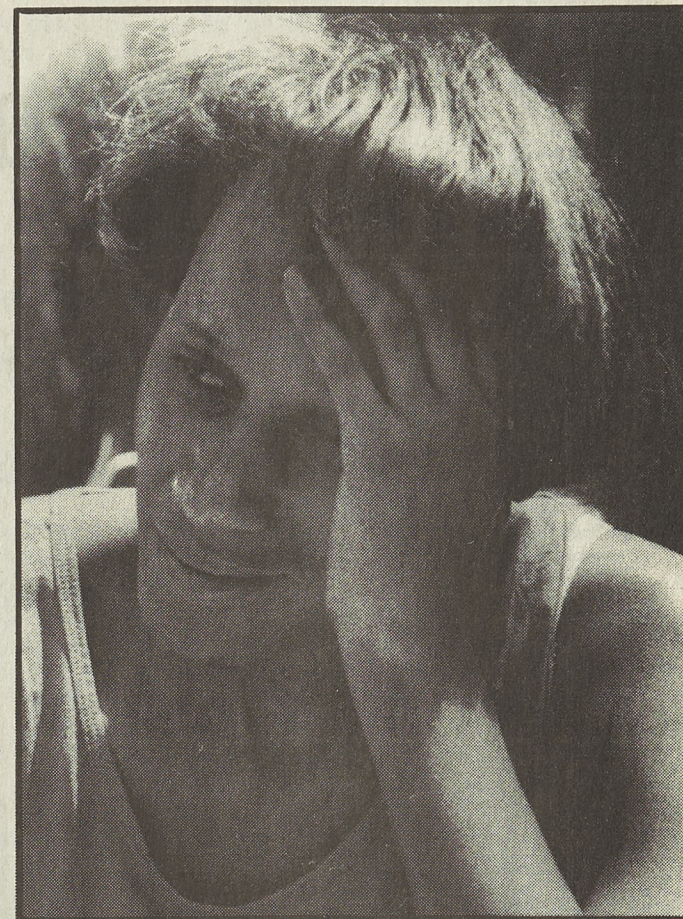
A mature, single woman living alone, I've experienced many of life's tragedies, among others—child sexual molestation, lack of maternal love, illegal abortion and drug dependency—but I can't remember ever feeling so scared.

At my age, losing all my assets would be devastating. While I hoped for the best, I waited—and prayed against—the worst.

Hours passed as the flames flared, the black smoke slowly changing to gray and then to white. The imminent danger dwindling, my neighbors returned to their apartments and the firemen departed, leaving a small fire to burn out as they had to go to another fire.

Exhausted and exhilarated, with pet and possessions, I entered my apartment, thanking God for sparing it. However humble, it's home. Surrounded by looters, I decided it was safer for me to sleep in my apartment, even with the smoke, than to spend the night with one of my five friends who, concerned for my safety, called. But when I closed my eyes, all I saw were flames dancing.

The next morning at 6 a.m., I was awakened by a neighbor, and saw my neighbors outside and the same building burning! Firemen, guarded by two Highway Patrolmen, dragged water hoses past my auto and apartment, fighting the blaze. The still smoldering fire from last night had rekindled.



SHARYN CADIA / Valley Star

Devastated — Sharon Huntley at 330 New Hampshire on May 3, 1992.

Once again, the firemen put it out, departed, then returned a second time, until it was finally extinguished. "Thank you," I said to the firemen. Although my Hollywood neighborhood looks like a war zone, Beirut or Kuwait, my story has a happy ending: I was lucky.

For Los Angeles, however, the story is quite different and the end is unknown. Now, armed policemen patrol major thoroughfares, arresting suspected looters and defending businesses. Now, a National Guardsman named Santos, dressed in full battle gear with an M-16 rifle aimed in the air, ready to shoot in the assault position, stands guard against looters and arsonists on the corner of my block. "I'm glad to see you," I said, shaking his hand, seeing other armed National Guardsmen on other corners. And, on TV, Rodney King said, "It's not right; we have to live here," asking, "Can't we work it out?"

With 50 people dead, thousands of people injured, hundreds of millions of dollars in physical and emotional damage, and all of Los Angeles victimized and vandalized, I find Police Chief Gates and the four policemen guilty... on all counts.



SHARA R. WELLS / Valley Star

Clean sweep — People of all ages gathered for the clean-up effort. A young girl joins others in sweeping up debris on South Vermont Avenue. The clean-

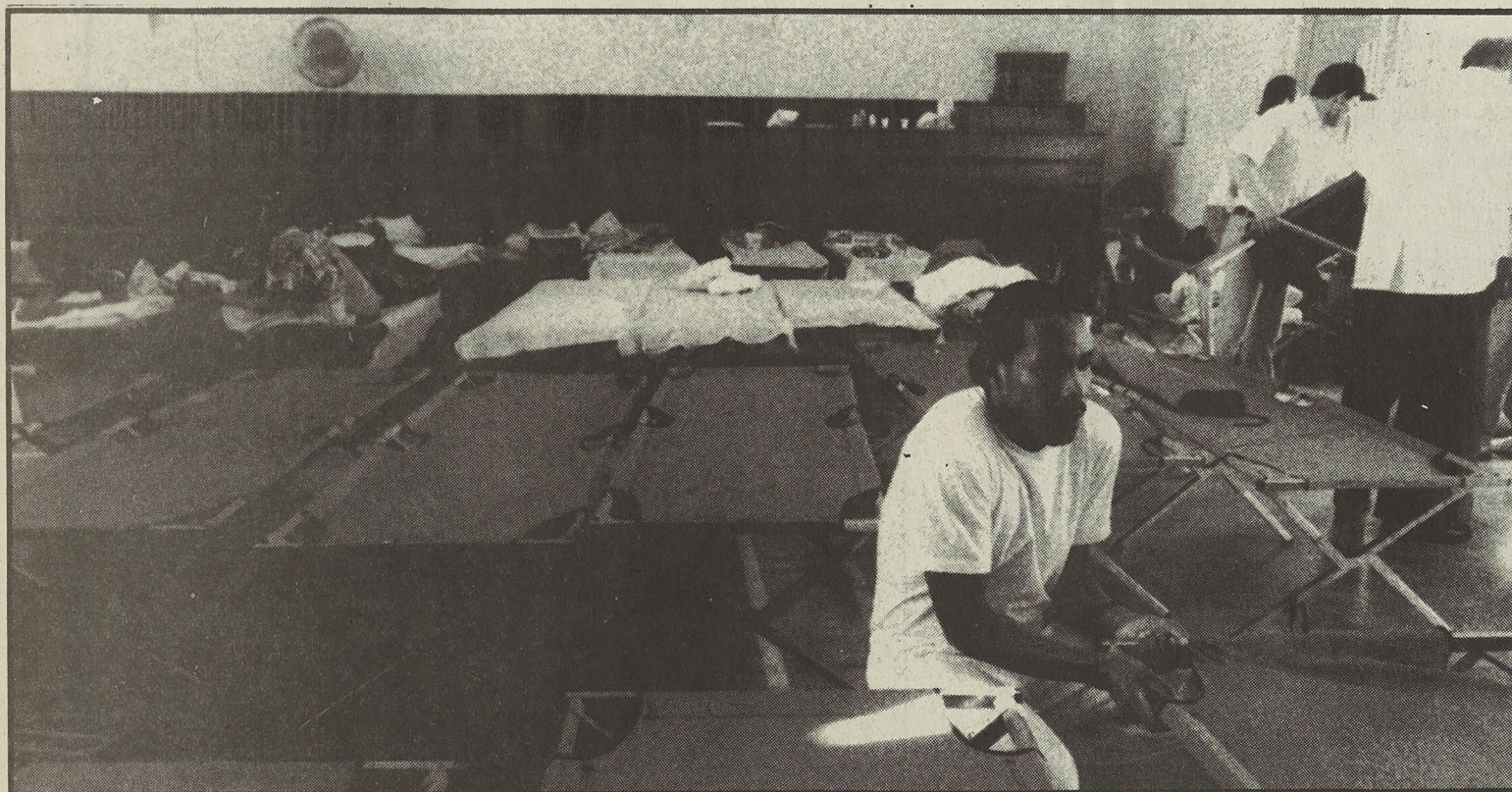
up efforts drew people from as far away as Ventura and Orange counties.



UZI ASHKENAZI / Valley Star

Remembering the fallen — A march up Vermont Avenue sponsored by the Korean Community drew an estimated 3,000 people. One of the vic-

tims of the riots, Edward Lee, is remembered by his brother.



SHARYN CADIA / Valley Star

Unemployed — Ethan Townsend lost his job at Boys Market on Jefferson and Manchester when it burned to

the ground. He likes to help at the Dorsey High School shelter. He contributes many hours helping others.



SHARA R. WELLS / Valley Star

Coming together — People from all over the Southland helped in the clean-up of Los Angeles.

*The Dean's List is comprised of those students who have achieved a 3.6 Grade Point Average in 12 or more units for the preceding semester or in 30 units acquired over several semesters. This includes a 3.6 GPA in no less than 6 units carried in the semester in which he or she qualifies.

Valley College

Dean's List Fall 1991

THE DEAN'S RECEPTION TEA, honoring students listed below, will take place 2 p.m., Thursday, May 21, 1992 in Monarch Hall.



Abadi, Ornat (3)
Abramson, Jeffrey S.
Acevedo, Carlos G.
Ackermann, Barbara H.
Adlai, Tracey L.
Akopal, Philip K. (3)
Akopyan, Eduard
Alba, Andrea P.
Alberts, Julie (2)
Aldana, Catherine (3)
Alexanian, Hagop
Almario, Joyce T.
Aloyan, Tamara (2)
Ammann, Philip J. (5)
Andersen, John T.
Anderson, Richard B.
Anglin, Sandra D.
Apsay, James R.
Arega, Yeshack
Aros, Cynthia I.
Asche, Paula C.
Ash, Judy A. (3)
Asiss, Shlomi
Atkison, John M. (2)
Austin, Rani
Avidan, Sigalit



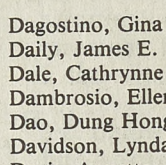
Baadani, Alon (2)
Baik, Hyungki
Bailey, Julie D. (7)
Baker, Imelda P. (8)
Baker, Shirley A. (3)
Balbuna, John A.
Baratta, Alexander M. (2)
Barragansmith, Barbara (3)
Bashan, Yaniv
Bassett, William H. (3)
Bauer, Kristine R.
Baumann, Richard L.
Baymiller, Ellen
Beck, Teresa (3)
Beg, Gerald E.
Bekoe, Adzete
Bell, Richard W. (4)
Bell, Shirley A. (3)
Benusovich, Mariya
Berliner, Sabrina
Bernie, Susana
Berry, Aldon O.
Beikhodou, Nargel (3)
Bittner, Stacey A.
Blaha, Jane (2)
Blair, Charlotte V. (2)
Bloch, Amy A. (2)
Block, Brent R. (3)
Bluestein, Hilary A.
Bordonaro, Luigi M.
Borromeo, Eileen P. (3)
Boseman, Beverly J. (2)
Bouquet, Jacqueline A.
Bourn, Grady A.
Bouzas, Arthur F.
Bowman, Kaja S. (4)
Bowyer, Louisa
Boyles, Kenneth L.
Bragadottir, Linda B. (2)
Brain, Theresa A. (3)
Braverman, Dmitry G.
Brogman, Thomas J.
Bressler, Lynda K.
Brolo, Hector R.
Brustin, Trisha E. (3)
Buchanan, Lori L. (3)
Burgess, Kristie A. (2)
Burstein, Josef (2)



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Calderon, Mario A. (2)
Callahan, Elizabeth (3)
Campbell, Aaron D.
Carbajal, Ernest A. (3)
Carlson, Laura J.
Carrillo, Monica L.
Carroll, Nancy J.
Carter, Ryan R.
Case, Jennifer L. (2)
Casey, Jennifer A.
Casillas, Margarita (3)
Castuciano, Roger O.
Catherall, Leslie D.
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Chan, Johnson D. (2)
Chan, Ol (2)
Chan, Tim Ho
Chandler, Sandy M. (5)
Chau, Phong T.
Chau, Phuong D. (3)
Chavez, Rene
Chavira, Sandra M.
Chen, Hao
Chiang, Chiaying (3)
Chin, Clifton K.
Ching, Ramon A.
Chotikasupaseranee, C.
Christian, Linda C.
Clark, Deborah J. (5)
Clement, Gerald F.
Condit, Robert J. (2)



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Conkright, Kelly M. (3)
Contreras, Martin S.
Cooper, Rotem
Cordero, Christy A. (3)
Cowan, Melodi A.
Cox, Cindy L. (3)
Crane, Amber D.
Cremona, Danila F.
Croft, Susan C.
Croot, Jeff (2)
Crouch, Wayne E. (3)
Cruz, Carmen P. (3)
Cruz, Romina M. (2)



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Daily, James E.
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Dambrosio, Ellen A.
Dao, Dung Hong
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Davis, Annette
Decker, Jason A.
Delaney, Shirley J. (2)
Delgado, Bryan A.
Delosrios, Karin L.
Delude, Michelle (3)
Demirchian, Gayane
Depaul, William
Derdena, Robert I. (3)
Diamond, Juliet B.
Dierickx, Marc J. (2)
Dimant, Asaf S.
Dineros, Rica C. (2)
Disney, Linda E. (4)
Dohi, Maria R.
Dominguez, Antonio
Dong, Michael Jingwei (3)
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Dow, Rhonda E. (4)
Drewyer, Craig S.
Duba, Jerald J.
Duffy, Patricia
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Dunlap, Steven S.
Duong, Hahoane
Duvshani, Orit N. (3)



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Eldam, Mona M. (5)
Elias, Robert T. (3)
Elkiss, Avi (2)
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English, Teri L.
Esparza, Helena C.



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Favareau, Don F. (4)
Favela, Francisco
Flores, Beatriz
Florian, Eduardo P. (2)
Foote, Geoffrey J.
Freedkin, Aaron S.
Freedkin, Joshua B. (5)
Freitag, Frederick C.
Funk, Jabin P.
Furukawa, Ayakou



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Gallant, Doria R. (3)
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Garrity, Karin L.
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Gill, Katharine
Glynn, Tracey A. (2)
Goggans, Bradley M.
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Goldshtein, Greta A.
Golob, Aaron S. (4)
Gonda, John A. (4)
Goodwin, Marian
Goss, Victoria A. (2)
Graam, Gregory A. (4)
Graham, Linnea
Grava, Samantha
Greco, Michael P. (2)
Gutierrez, Cecilia S.



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Halo, Lynn L. (2)
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Hartman, Kristin B.
Hayashi, Kenjiro (4)
Hendrata, Siska
Henrich, Marcella J.
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Hernandez, Robert S.
Hernandez, Victor H.
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Homer, Ronald M. (2)
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Huang, Chih Yung (3)
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Pierce, Hugh O.
Piilo, Sandra A. (5)
Pirner, Julie B.
Pittman, Kenda L.
Pogosyan, Arshaluis
Potenza, Debra A.
Pourmansour, Sepideh (2)
Powell, Alana D.
Powlison, Linda A.
Preheim, Arnold W.



Quan, Mia
Quiarte, Olga A.



Rains, Susan M.
Rahy, Lisa A.
Ranter, Manfred S.
Rathi, Namita S.
Rausa, Aurora
Rayburn, Delealou
Recalde, Javier F.
Regalado, Rhett F.
Renick, David L. (5)
Reorizo, Emilia I. (2)
Repo, Geoff J.
Retersdorf, R. Thomas (2)
Reyes, Gianetateres
Reyes, Rosalva (2)
Rhee, Sung Yong
Richmond, Alec (3)
Ripp, Melissa (2)
Ristow, Kathryn M.
Rittephamorn, Surin
Rittenbert, Chris (2)
Ro, William
Rochon, Nancy A.
Rodriguez, Edward J. (2)
Rodriguez, Miguel S.
Roepel, Jason A.
Rogers, Melissa L. (4)
Rollans, James F.
Romero, Alberto
Rosenblum, Orit
Ross, Tambria G.
Rosson, Gabriella B.
Rothe, Jennifer A.
Rowan, Gay L. (3)
Royse, Airianne A.
Ruiz, Hilda
Russell, Dorothy A. (2)



Saade, Jean E.
Saade, Theodore E.
Saejeng, Akkarat (2)
Safarian, Raymond
Salzman, Stacy M. (2)
Sarmiento, Cynthia S.
Sarver, Ivy P. (2)
Sauter, Kellie A.
Savage, Michael J. (2)
Savage, Susan M.
Savalas, Eleonore G. (2)
Schwartz, Gene A.
Seale, William L.
Segna, Manuela
Self, Robert W. (2)
Serpa, Shelby S. (3)
Shafer, Tina L.
Shanakyian, Zograp
Shapiro, Judith
Sharma, Aditya (2)
Sharpe, Christopher D. (3)
Shelby, Clifton J.
Shibayama, Kentaro
Shifflett, Pam M. (2)
Siaw, Abigail
Sicoli, Mark A. (3)
Siddons, Cheri A. (2)
Sidman, Jeffrey A.
Siebert, Kevin M.
Silva, Luis C.
Silva, Salvador N.
Silveira, Danielle
Simon, Janet A. (3)
Simon, Kevin J.
Simonov, George (2)
Simpson, Heather A.
Singer, Shari L. (3)
Sippel, Eva M. (2)
Sisk, Matthew J. (3)
Siwassilian, Rafic A. (3)
Skellton, Juliet P. (2)
Skylar, Jamie (2)
Small, Bryant E.
Smith, Clayton M. (2)
Smith, Eric F.
Smith, Jennifer M.
Smith, Thomas M.
Smith, Tim J.
Smitsvanoyen, Hanna (2)
Smorodinsky, Svetlana (2)

Soloveichik, Sofia
South, Suzan V. (3)
Sparks, Julie L.
Stanfield, Ralph W.
Star, Naomi F. (2)
Steiger, Debbi
Stephens, Sheryl A.
Stern, Heather G. (2)
Stoll, Thomas C.
Strom, Leo
Sugeta, Kazuko Y.
Surenyan, Alfred
Swander, Carol D. (4)
Sweet, Josh (2)



Tagashira, Riko (2)
Takaoka, Daisaku J. (4)
Tam, Man W.
Tan, Winnie C.
Tan, Chin (3)
Tansky, Samantha E. (2)
Tanzman, Ronald J.
Tarr, Kay D. (6)
Terranova, Steve G.
Teshima, Akiko L.
Thibeault, Ewa (2)
Thompson, Isabelle
Thompson, Patricia A.
Thorstein, Linda J.
Thrasher, Kimberly A. (4)
Tonnu, Duong Thanh (3)
Toon, Stacie S.
Torres, Fabiola (3)
Towne, Lori M.
Tozzi, Jacqueline
Trainer, Stephen
Trammell, Teri L. (3)
Tran, Anhuan D.
Tran, Thuyanh K. (3)
Trnka, Lisa A.
Turner, Monica L.



Underhill, Nicolas R.



Vaghefi, Houman (2)
Vahdat, Arash (2)
Valenzuela, Mariel (2)
Valenzuela, Nelson E.
Vardanyan, Alis
Vega, Leonard (2)
Velasquez, Jesus M.
Vena, Gabrielle (2)
Vermeiren, Olivier H. (2)
Villalobos, Frank (2)
Vogelsang, Laura J.
Vu, Thuy L. (4)



Waldman, Stuart T.
Walker, Roslyn E.
Wang, Hsu Ming (2)
Ward, Wendy L.
Waxman, Judith
Webb, Jennifer D.
Webb, Robin L. (2)
Weiss, Jae L. (3)
White, Christine L.
Wilkinson, Sarah C.
Willhide, Mary P.
Williams, Barbara L.
Wilson, Robert J. (2)
Windus, Deborah (6)
Winer, Shari L.
Withers, Janet E.
Witkin, Andrea L.
Wogoman, Larry K. (2)
Wood, Sarah L.
Woody, Tamara J. (2)
Wright, Melissa A.
Wright, Timothy J. (2)
Wyatt, Myla I.



Xaymounry, Sommak



Yap, Weiying
Yazici, Emine H.
Yelloz, Eva R.
Yeung, Yuk Ling
Younger, Ann E. (3)



Zabala, Guillermina G. (2)
Ziser, Natasha (2)
Zur, Osnat E.
Zuyovich, Andjela

Note: The number in parenthesis () denotes the number of times a student has been on the Dean's list.

Review:

Pour some sugar on me

By MARK MORFORD
Staff Writer

The LAVC College Choir and Chamber Singers, gracefully conducted by George Attarian, performed last Thursday to a capacity crowd at the Music Recital Hall in the Music building.

They presented a varied program covering works by 16th, 17th, and 19th century composers, some of whom are well known (Handel, Brahms, Vaughan Williams, Monteverdi), and some not (Morton Lauridsen, Luca Marenzio, etc.).

This was a rare opportunity to enter the peculiar underground world of choral singers and their music, and I wasn't disappointed by what I found.

If you desire a quick dose of flowery sentimentality, or if you want to hear the musical version of a Hallmark card, you can't beat a choir. Experiencing one is a bit like a steady diet of a wedding cake—a little tastes all right (for the occasion), but after a few bites you realize that this much sugar can cause brain damage.

If you have the type of mind which allows you to handle frighteningly large amounts of airy delightfulness, than choir music is for you.

All right, so I'm exaggerating. They were really quite good, these singers, although a few seemed rather hesitant to open their mouths more than a millimeter to allow sound to come through (stage fright, to be sure).

"...Musical version of a Hallmark card..."

The sound that did make it through was quite favorable, though the actual words were not worth much. Believe me, with titles like *With Love My Heart Is Ringing*, *Rise Up, My Love, My Fair One*, and *Kisses So Sweet and Burning*, you'd be well advised to ignore the lyrics and just enjoy the dynamics and rich texture of human voices in chorus.

This plush quality of sound is obviously the allure of choral singing, and these singers didn't disappoint.

The College Choir, in bright green and gold gowns (batteries not included), began the first half of their program with a short German piece, which they sang both in German and English.

They then moved quickly through three more works in English, none of which were longer than three to four minutes. They performed admirably well, despite a want of enthusiasm, and seemed fairly comfortable with the material. Their voice quality was excellent, and their timing nearly (but not quite), perfect.

The formally attired (black tuxedos, black dresses) Chamber Singers performed next, and their more diverse program was nearly twice as long and the Choir's, though that wasn't necessarily a good thing.

The singing was a bit more virtuosos and colorful, and thankfully, they sang most of their pieces in the original Italian, though the English translations were provided in the concert program (it was best to ignore the translations and imagine they were singing something truly profound).

Many of the pieces were quite lovely, but one in particular, *Io Piagno (I'm Weeping)*, was exceptionally powerful, due to its grave tempo, dramatic volume shifts, and use of melancholy-sounding minor and diminished keys and scales. If I had paid anything to get in, that piece alone would've been worth the admission price.

These Chamber Singers were remarkably good, but they annoyingly ended their set with a few reinterpreted "standards," such as *Campdown Races* and some other thing about banjos and porch swings, so all hopes of being taken seriously were irreparably damaged. Sure, they sang them well, but the strong scent of barbershop-type singing that pervaded these pieces made the last fifteen minutes of the concert difficult to bear. A humble suggestion: try something by a contemporary composer or even a pop artist. Please!

I don't mean to diminish the efforts of these singers. They were all exceptionally good and well rehearsed, and as I mentioned, the voice quality of both groups, especially the Chamber Singers, was very impressive. Both gave nicely polished performances, and it was very interesting to hear a form of music that one rarely gets the chance to experience.

The singing was not the problem. If these groups would update their repertoire, and adapt it a bit more to "real" culture, it might actually create a genuine interest among more students, and it might make sense to go and enjoy them more often. Understandably, as it is now, very few know of their existence. Too bad!

Jazzin' up



GEORGE ATORAYA SIMONOV / Valley Star

COOL JAZZ — Former LAVC music instructor, John Newsome, jams on his sax during the jazz rehearsal at Monarch Hall.

The LAVC Jazz band held its rehearsal session at Monarch Hall on Tuesday. The class, Studio Jazz Band (Music 781), is taught by Woody James, professor of music.

The purpose of the class is to form a group to record, says James.

The band rehearses every Tuesday and Thursday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in Monarch Hall.

One of the band members is former LAVC music instructor John Newsome who taught here in the '80s. Newsome plays the tenor saxophone.

Compiled By George Atoraya Simonov

Raquel listens to . . . a script writer

By RAQUEL VACCARO
Assoc. Entertainment Editor

As you enter the office you are quick to notice how immaculate everything is. Crisp green plants line the rows of books and paperwork. The room is spacious with its off white walls and slate blue carpet. The french doors open to a patio overlooking the pool. You're entering writer Fran Lewis' home-office. She is a graduate of UC Berkeley with a degree in Liberal Arts. Lewis is a soft spoken elegant woman and has been a television writer for 15 years. She's won highly acclaimed awards such as the Playwright Award and the Award of Merit for Episodes. She is greatly respected among her peers. She has always wanted to make people feel emotion and has accomplished this.

Q. What education is needed to be a television or movie writer?

A. Being educated is always important in general for everyone, however a degree isn't really necessary to write. Good basic grammar and spelling skills are needed. Networking helps to sell scripts through a combination of luck and perseverance.

Q. For someone who just wants to write for television without going to college what can they do? A. I don't want to downplay college, however you can take a UCLA extension course in screenwriting where I did. You get to network with people in the business and make a lot of connections. Most of the extension courses are taught by writers and agents.

Q. Can you recommend any books or bookstores to help aspiring writers? A. Samuel French Bookstore is popular among people in the business. I also recommend you subscribe to the Writers Digest, a magazine with updated information. You can also use your library and subscribe to Dramalogue.

Q. How do you start to get a story idea for a show you want to write for? A. For television, study a show that you watch (one that you know won't get cancelled). Get to know the main characters inside and out. Then write a spec (a sample of 125 words). Send a copy of it along with a query letter to the producers of the show. *The Address Book-How To Reach Anyone Who Is Anyone* by M. Levine is helpful if you want to submit scripts directly to the celebrity themselves.

Q. What is a query letter? A. A one page letter about the episode or movie of the week

you are trying to sell. It is also a letter of introduction which you include with a sample of your work.

Q. How do you come up with writing a movie of the week script? A. Usually you write about a story that you have experienced or about an issue that is close to you. When you write this it's a good idea to have an actor or actress in mind for the lead. It's sometimes easier to sell the movie to producers if they can relate the character to someone famous.

Q. How much money can you expect to make writing for television? A. The scale is about 7 to 8 thousand dollars per half hour show. An hour show can make you 8 to ten thousand dollars richer!

Q. What are the pros of being a television writer? A. The money you can make is incredible! It's a thrill to watch your words come alive by famous people.

Q. What are some cons of being a television writer? A. Unfortunately you only get paid when your script is bought. The competition is high because there is a lot of money to be earned. It's also very exciting to write but once you start it's difficult to stop. Being a freelance writer you won't get any benefits.

Q. What shows have you written? A. A few of my shows have been the feature film *The Ladies Club*, a movie of week *Ticket To Murder*, a series called *Ninth Street*. I also used to write a lot of *Cagney & Lacy* shows. I'm currently busy writing a new pilot called *Borders* and it's hot.

Q. What makes a script sell? A. For half hour and one hour episodes, a script filled with fresh ideas, story lines with strong messages, stories that haven't been done before, and current event stores sell quicker. For a movie of the week, producers want to feel the writers' words.

Q. When you write a script how can you guarantee that it will be read by the right people? A. Having an agent who can sell your work is a plus. You can get an agent list from the Writers' Guild. Network as much as possible with people in the industry. If you've attended college, you've probably heard about intern jobs. If you haven't attended college, but you feel you have an excellent script, bring it to the studio in person and follow up with calls. You can also submit it to the celebrity that you wrote it for. Don't get discouraged like many writers do just keep writing, calling, and networking. Good luck to all you aspiring writers.

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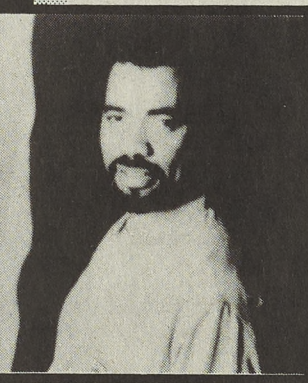
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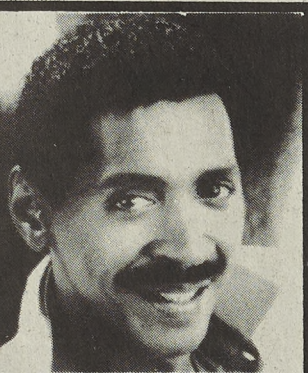
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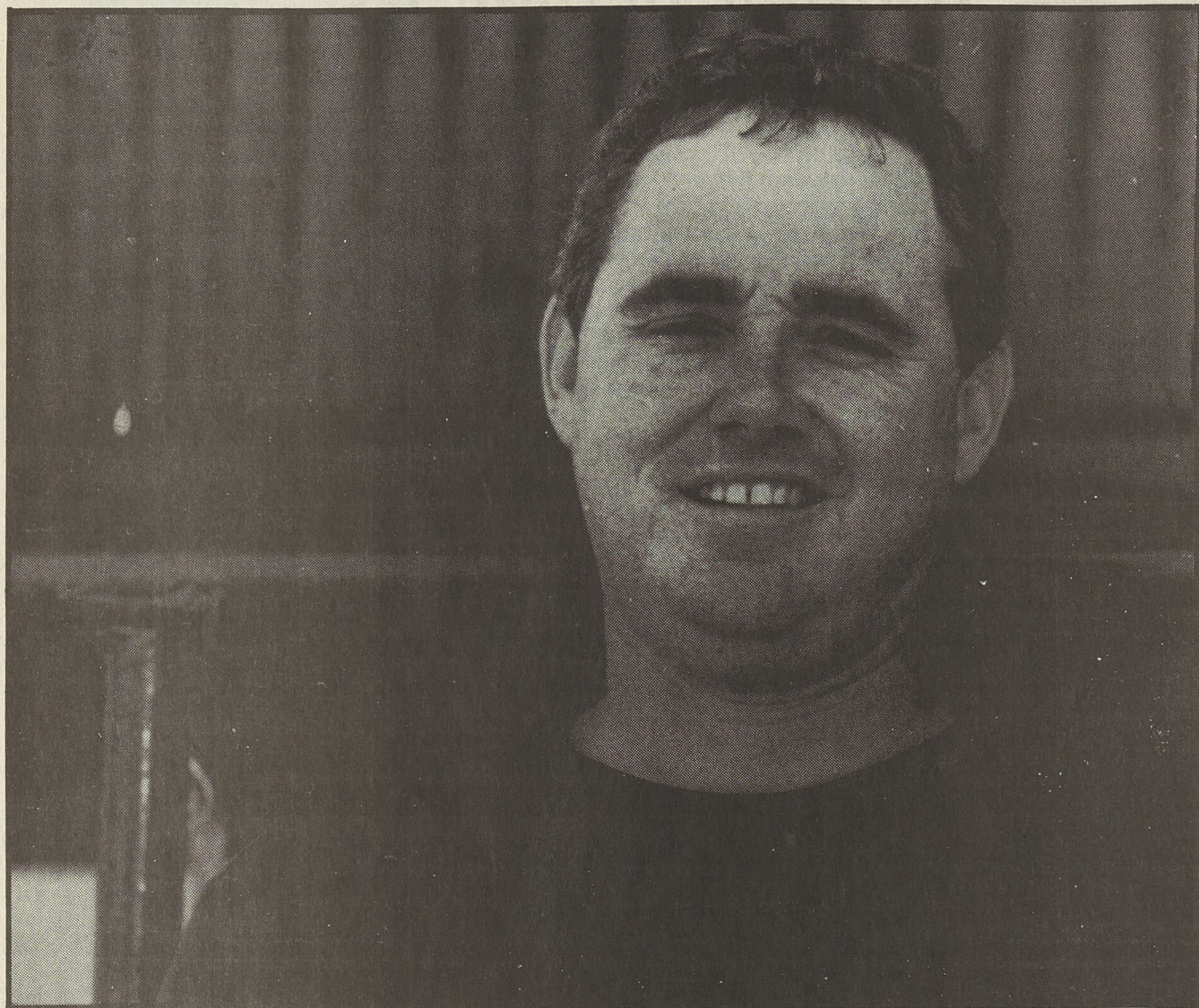


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CHRIS JOHNSON — Valley's head baseball coach in the Monarch's dugout.

SHARA R. WELLS / Valley Star

Profile:

Way of life for Coach Johnson

By KEVIN BOLT
Asst. Sports Editor

"I'm hoping to die in a dugout."
This is the love and passion 5th year LAVC baseball coach Chris Johnson shows towards the game.

After a season in which the Monarch baseball team missed the play-offs with a last-game loss at Moorpark, Johnson remains optimistic.

"Having a young, challenging team like we had this year and establishing relationships with my players and assistant coaches was really great this year."

Before coming to Valley, Johnson was an assistant coach at CSUN for seven years, where he earned his masters degree in Sports Psychology.

Johnson, 34, has been married for eight years, has two children and resides in Northridge. His favorite off-season activities are spending time with his family and conducting baseball camps.

Johnson played baseball at Ventura J.C. and was thought to be a pro draft prospect in 1977, but when he dislocated his shoulder he went into coaching. The former third baseman and shortstop coaching philosophy remains the same however. "We try to play poised, focused and determined. Those three terms embody my baseball philosophy."

A head coaching position at the four year level is Johnson's next goal. Losing that last game of the year and missing the play-off chance was a big disappointment, but not as much for Johnson, he feels, as it was for his players.

"It's disappointing for me, but it's extremely disappointing for the kids. We have some young kids here that I really enjoyed coaching and it was hard to lose it on the last game like that."

Johnson really cares for his players, both past and present. "It's amazing that I still am in regular contact with a lot of my former players. It's just great that they come around to see us."

First team all-conference shortstop Carlos Olmos says "He has taught me to keep going even if the game is out of hand in the last inning. The game is never over until the last out is made."

Assistant coach Fred Pudrith said: "He got me started in coaching stressing the fundamentals of the game."

Profile:

Stewart: A twisted season

By STEVEN DUNLAP
Sports Editor

This picture gives a false impression of her today.

Entering her apartment, I see a lively person who is restricted to her couch because of a knee injury.

Jennifer Stewart, 19, a sophomore at LAVC, ranked ninth in the Jr. Nationals for the high jump during her senior year in high school at Norte Dame.

Last year, she placed first for LAVC in the high jump (5½ ft.) at the State Finals.

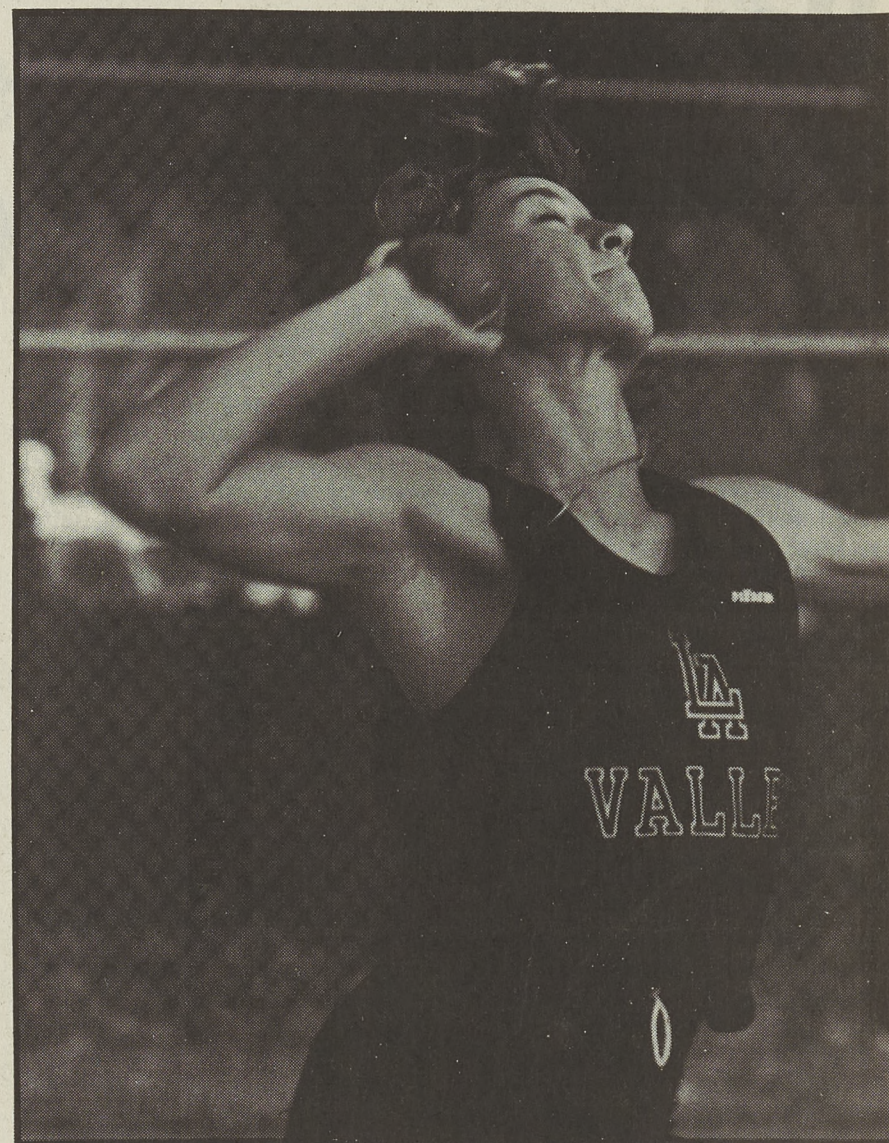
Stewart's season fell short during her best event, the javelin, when on the throw she planted her foot, twisted her knee somehow and fell. She was in pain. Her coach was videotaping her approach and also caught the aftermath of her agony.

Her track abilities have taken her to Texas, Colorado and Minnesota.

"If I would've placed third or better in the Jr. Nationals, I would have gone to Jamaica, I love travelling," said Stewart.

Her physical appearance is affected by her hobbies which include: numerous amounts of watersports, horses and laying out at the beach.

She plans to transfer next semester, several schools have contacted her since she placed first in the State Finals. Her choice is to stay in California and either attend San Diego St., UPI, Fresno, CAL Poly or Long Beach St.



STEWART — Shotputting before her accident.

SHARA R. WELLS / Valley Star

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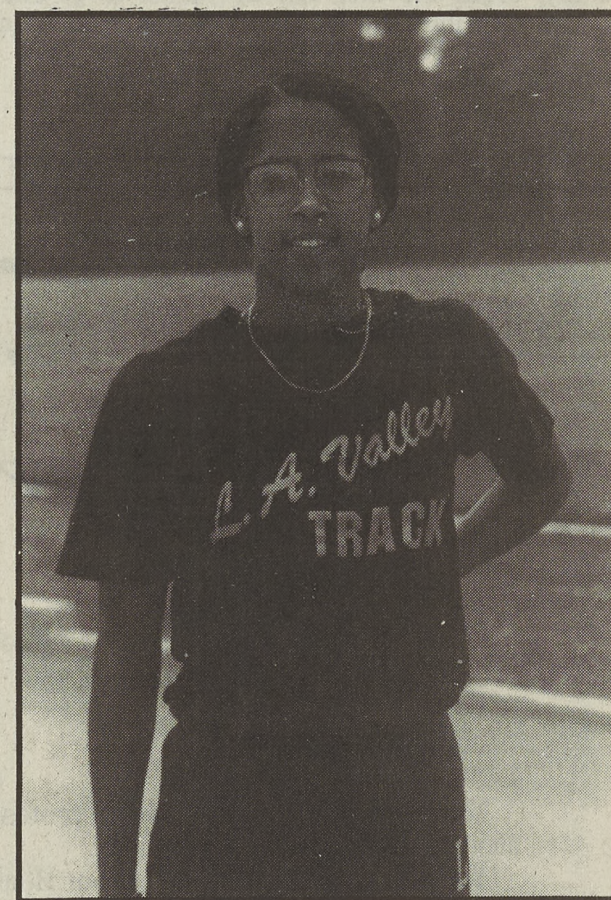
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MARCUS REED
Men's Track

LAVC SOPHOMORE - Canoga Park H/S



SABRINA BROWN
Women's Track

LAVC SOPHOMORE - Grant H/S

At the Western States Conference Finals Marcus won the 100 meters in 10.35, meters in 10.34, won the 200 meters in 21.1, and he long jumped 24.8. He was a member of the 400 meter Men's Relay team which won the Western State's Conference Finals and had a personal record in his leg of the 1600 meter of 47.7.



At the Western States Conference Finals Sabrina won the 400 meters in 57.0. She ran one of the four legs of the 100 Relay in which the relay team won first place. In addition, Sabrina ran one of the legs of the 1600 meter relay in which the team also took first place.

Photos By: Nancy Vigran